

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 8, 2005

The Emergency Management Advisory Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, November 8, 2005 at 8:00 A.M. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Advisory Council Members present were: President Jimmie Kesterson, Vice Chairman Nathan Miller, Dave Reagan, Carol Shelby, Garry Smith, John Withers, County Councilmember Ronald L. Fruitt, and Commissioner Ruth E. Shedd. Also present: Deputy Director Tim Batta and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr. (Advisory Council Members Mike Kyger John Walker were absent.

Chairman Jimmie Kesterson called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Commissioner Shedd moved to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2005 Meeting as distributed, seconded by Ms Shelby; motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: *Chairman Jimmie Kesterson*

Chairman Kesterson said he thinks it is time to assess our methods of notification. He noted that the sirens were activated during the tornado activity that went through Evansville last Saturday night (11/5) but were not heard because most residents were sleeping.

➔ Attorney David W. Luhman entered the meeting.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS: *Director Mark Kirby*

Storm

TEMA volunteers assisted during the storm last Saturday night (11/5) but nothing serious occurred in Tippecanoe County. Director Kirby reported he talked with Vanderburgh County's EMA Director and offered help and resources.

Stop Payment

Director Kirby reported he put a stop payment on a check written to former TEMA Director Steve Wettschurack for \$600 from the Volunteer Fund for work at Kamp Motor Speedway because it was not cashed after 9 months. When Director Kirby was contacted by Pat Harrington, Mr. Wettschurack's attorney, asking how they could get the check re-issued, Director Kirby responded he would need documentation showing the check was legitimate. The documentation he received was a sign-up sheet for Kamp Motor Speedway. Director Kirby read a letter he sent to Mr. Harrington in response:

(quote)

Sir, I am in receipt of your letter and the accompanying documents. As we discussed, the stop payment was issued on the check because the traditional 6 months has passed since it was issued. I looked over the roster of dates worked and I understand its meaning, but I do not have and what I feel I need is a copy of the agreement between Kamp Motor Speedway and the TEMA Volunteers, or Steve Wettschurack, or whomever. That documentation was not left in the office after the first of the year and

Kamp has not been forthcoming in producing it. I'm certain I will be asked to produce the agreement before a check can be issued. Please let me be clear, I need a copy of the agreement, signed if that's the case, not a letter or whatever describing what someone says the arrangement was.

I'm sure we both understand the complication that will result minus specific documentation requested. Please let me know if you need anything additional.

(unquote)

Director Kirby reported he has received no response.

Trailers

Director Kirby reported they are nearing completion of the transition from TEMA's older vehicles to the system of trailers and pull vehicles. He thinks they will be in very good shape in terms of response time and flexibility.

- ♦ Rapid Response Trailer carries equipment from the old Coke truck plus other items that will fit almost any situation. It will roll first.
- ♦ Force Protection Trailer carries protection for the first responders.
- ♦ Regional Trailer carries various equipment plus the mule and other transportation equipment.

He complimented Deputy Director Batta on his organizational skills during the transition.

Gravel was poured last week so the trailers can be parked beside the T-27 Building and plugged into electricity. This is important for temperature sensitive equipment in the trailers.

Volunteers

A Recruit Process has been started for new volunteers. New recruits will undergo training and be required to attain certifications prior to the issuance of equipment. Director Kirby said he thinks this will allow an assessment of their abilities as well as help learn their determination to become a volunteer. Current volunteers will receive continuing training.

The volunteers assisted at the "Haunted Feargrounds" held by Jefferson High First Edition at the County Fairgrounds and received a \$2,500 donation to the Volunteer Fund.

The volunteers will not work at Purdue Football games this year but they may be asked to do so next year as part-time employees of Purdue University.

BUDGET: Director Kirby

Director Kirby reported the County Council approved his request for an additional \$5,000 in Garage Supplies at their October meeting.

PROPOSAL FOR FACILITATOR: Christopher Burke

Director Kirby distributed copies of the proposal from Christopher Burke to act as Facilitator for TEMA. The proposal is for an amount not-to-exceed \$5,000.

CITIZEN CORPS & CERT PROGRAMS: TEMA Secretary Brenda Melville

Mrs. Melville explained that the Citizens Corps, funded by a grant, is an umbrella for the following programs:

- ♦ VIPS: Volunteers in Police Service
- ♦ Fire Reserve Corps
- ♦ CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Program
- ♦ Neighborhood Watch
- ♦ Medical Reserve Corps

Mrs. Melville heads and trains citizens in CERT which, in a disaster, is a self-help program that utilizes neighborhood volunteers until professionals arrive. These neighborhood teams are first responders who receive 21 hours of training and a backpack of supplies from the State. They report to the professionals when they arrive and provide further help only if asked. Everything for CERT flows through TEMA.

SIREN TEST: Deputy Director Tim Batta

Sirens located at the Veterans Home, Stonehenge, and 200 N @ 400 E failed to activate during the Siren Test held on Saturday, November 5th. Deputy Director Batta thinks the Stonehenge siren has a burned controller.

For greater warning effectiveness during severe weather, Director Kirby suggested requiring a warning system and underground shelter in mobile home parks as well as alert radios for all homes.

Councilmember Fruitt questioned the wisdom of activating the sirens on a Purdue home football day. Director Kirby responded he considered not doing the test but, since the sirens were not activated the previous month and a storm was predicted for that evening, he thought it was important to test the sirens.

← Mr. Miller left the meeting.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE: Dave Reagan, Chairman

The committee has not met but Mr. Reagan reported he still does not have a radio inventory.

Chairman Kesterson commented that the “KIT” early warning system funded by Fairfield Township is still not operational. Mr. Smith said he would take responsibility for lack of progress with the system but he will do everything he can to have it operational by storm season. He said the lack of an Operations Manual has been a major stumbling block. Chairman Kesterson asked him to poll other EMAs to learn if anyone has the system and can help with the programming.

HAZ-MAT TEAM REPORT: Deputy Director Tim Batta

Haz-Mat Team members were on the scene approximately two (2) hours when a dump truck spilled gasoline on I-65. He said the dumper cleaned up the spill.

Director Kirby reported he sent a letter to Scott asking for a refund for the uncertified air masks previously purchased by TEMA with our commitment that we will purchase their air masks that are certified if we get State funding. (Refer to 1/11/05, 7/12/05, 9/13/05, & 10/11/05 Minutes)

OLD BUSINESS

Facilitator Proposal resumed

Chairman Kesterson reviewed that Christopher Burke's proposal to act as Facilitator is for four (4) two (2) hour sessions at a not-to-exceed cost of \$5,000. By consensus, the Advisory Council agreed this is the direction they want to take and are willing to invest the time. Commissioner Shedd asked how payment for the contract will be funded. Councilmember Fruitt thought funding would come either from the Commissioners or the Rainy Day Fund. Commissioner Shedd noted the money has to be in place before the Commissioners can sign the contract but it was also noted that the appropriation could not be done until the first of the year. Attorney Luhman commented he thought this project would be an appropriate use of EDIT Funds. Councilmember Fruitt asserted they would make it happen. Attorney Luhman said the Advisory Council can ask the Commissioners to accept the contract subject to the appropriation of funding by the Council and the Chairman and Director can begin scheduling the meetings. This will allow Burke to be prepared for meetings in January after the funding is approved.

- Mr. Reagan moved to approve the acceptance of Christopher Burke's Proposal contingent on funding by the County Council, seconded by Ms Shelby; motion carried.

Chairman Kesterson said he and Director Kirby will set tentative schedules and get answers to questions by the next meeting.

TEMA's Missing Items

Attorney Luhman read a letter from Pat Harrington, attorney for former TEMA Director Steve Wettschurack.

(quote)

Dear Dave,

As per our conversation, I am enclosing for you copies of the charges filed in 04CO10505FD133. I would really appreciate, since you are the attorney for the County and they are technically the victim, that you review these charges and then possibly advise as to whether or not TEMA still wishes for these criminal charges to proceed forward.

Please advise your position.

(unquote)

Attorney Luhman said Mr. Harrington included a list of the charges filed in Benton County which lists the items which Steve Wettschurack did knowingly exert unauthorized control over. Since some of the items are small and insignificant, Mr. Harrington wondered if Tippecanoe County wants to proceed with criminal charges.

Attorney Luhman advised that, unless the TEMA Advisory Council determines it wouldn't be appropriate for the Benton County Prosecutor to continue with the prosecution he determined was appropriate, the Advisory Council might take the position that they have cooperated with the Prosecutor fully and are not in a position either in favor or against his professional determination.

Chairman Kesterson stated that TEMA provided a list of missing items to the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Department who, after an investigation, presented the evidence to the Benton County Prosecutor. He said Tippecanoe County is the victim.

Mr. Withers agreed that the Advisory Council should keep in place the action that has been taken.

Chairman Kesterson commented that the items are still missing.

Attorney Luhman stated he will notify Mr. Harrington of the Advisory Council's position that it will take no further action.

ADJOURNMENT

- Councilmember Fruitt moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Shedd; motion carried.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the TEMA Advisory Council will be held at 8:00 A.M., Tuesday, December 13, 2005 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building.

Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor